

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Busse on 2/28/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 1-13, 16, 18 and 27.

In claim 14, line 9, insert -- wherein said endpiece includes a supple part and a rigid part secured to the supple part, wherein the rigid part includes structure for removably securing the rod to the endpiece-- after the phrase "said endpiece with said handle," and before the phrase "and wherein said".

Also in claim 14, line 13, insert --, wherein said elements include a threaded portion on the rod, a grip screwed on the threaded section and a movable sleeve fitted between the grip and the head-- after the phrase "axis of said endpiece" and before the semicolon (;).

Also in claim 14, line 15, the phrase "a first force" should be replaced by the phrase --said first force--.

In claim 17, line 1, the phrase "of claim 16" should be deleted and replaced with the phrase --of claim 14--.

In claim 19, line 1, the phrase "of claim 18" should be deleted and replaced with the phrase --of claim 14--.

In claim 24, line 8, insert --, wherein said endpiece includes a supple part and a rigid part secured to the supple part, wherein the rigid part includes structure for removably securing the rod to the endpiece-- after the phrase "of the prosthetic acetabulum" and before the semicolon (;).

Also in claim 24, line 12, insert --, wherein the step of forcing the head into engagement with the inner surfaces of the petals of the deformable ring includes rotating a grip screwed on a threaded section of the rod in a first direction to urge a movable sleeve fitted between the grip and the head toward a distal position on the rod-- after the phrase "the tool" and before the semicolon (;).

In claim 31, line 12, insert --, wherein said endpiece includes a supple part and a rigid part secured to the supple part, wherein the rigid part includes structure for removably securing the rod to the endpiece-- after the phrase "surfaces of the petals" and before the semicolon (;).

In claim 33, line 1, the phrase "of claim 18" should be deleted and replaced with the phrase --of claim 14--.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARY HOFFMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo C. Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mary C. Hoffman/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Eduardo C. Robert/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733